



North Carolina Department of Transportation **NC 109 IMPROVEMENTS**

April 2006

State Project No. 8.1600904

Issue No. 3

TIP No. R-2568 (Sections C-F)

THANK YOU
to all those who
attended the
November 2005
Citizens Informational
Workshops!

**Your comments and
input are greatly
appreciated.**

**The project website
has been updated!
Visit it today at:**

[www.ncdot.org/projects/
NC109Improvements](http://www.ncdot.org/projects/NC109Improvements)

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Public Comments Lead to Corridor Shifts

In November 2005, NC 109 Citizens Informational Workshops were held at the Ledford Senior High School and St. Peter's World Outreach Center. More than 500 people attended the two workshops and over 270 written comments were received. Here's what commenters said:

- Respondents see a need for improvement, but would like to see action and decisions made as quickly and cost-effectively as possible.
- Respondents would like to maintain the rural character of the area.
- Of those responding, many are in favor of upgrading existing NC 109.
- Respondents showed a common concern for natural resource protection, safety, and a desire to minimize residential impacts.

As a result of comments received at these workshops, the Project Team has modified some of the alternative routes to further minimize impacts to the community and the environment (see updated study

area map on page 3 of this newsletter). The most dramatic modification applies to three of the new location corridors, but not to the corridor along existing NC 109. A 2-mile portion of Corridor 3, between Motsinger Road and Gumtree Road, was shifted to the west to reduce impacts to neighborhoods in the area.

The Project Team has also decided to include the interchanges along I-40 and US 52 as a part of this study. This means if either Corridor 1,3 or 6 is selected, the I-40/NC 109 interchange will be studied. If either Corridor 4 or 5 is chosen, the US 52/South Main Street interchange will be studied.

NCDOT is always interested in receiving public input on this project. You may submit comments at any time to the project email address at:
NC109@hwlochner.com

Or to speak with staff, please call the project hotline at **1-800-554-7849** (weekdays between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm).

Project Schedule

Selection of Alternatives for Detailed Study
Complete Draft Environmental Impact Study
Select Preferred Alternative
Complete Final Environmental Impact Study
Right-of-Way Acquisition
Construction

Summer 2006
Winter 2008
Summer 2009
Summer 2010
2011/Post Year*
Post Year*

**Right-of-way acquisition and construction for this project are not included in NCDOT's 2006-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This means funding will be set aside in the future, and right-of-way acquisition and construction will take place after 2012.*

For more information regarding the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) visit:

www.ncdot.org/planning/development/TIP

Steps in the NC 109 Project Development Process

Step 1

Data Collection
Inventory of Planning Issues
Transportation Needs Study
First Citizens Informational Workshops

We Are Here

Step 2

Development of Preliminary Alternatives
Documentation of Community Concerns
Preliminary Field Studies
Second Citizens Informational Workshops
Selection of Alternatives for Detailed Study

Step 3

Detailed Studies of Alternatives
Preliminary Designs
Detailed Field Surveys
Environmental Analysis

Step 4

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
Third Citizens Informational Workshop

Step 5

Combined Corridor/Design Public Hearing

Step 6

Review of Comments on the DEIS
Review of Public Hearing Transcript
Selection of Least Environmentally
Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA)

Step 7

Preliminary Design Refinement
Additional Field Studies
Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
Record of Decision (ROD)

Step 8

Design Public Hearing

Step 9

Right-of-Way Acquisition

Step 10

Construction

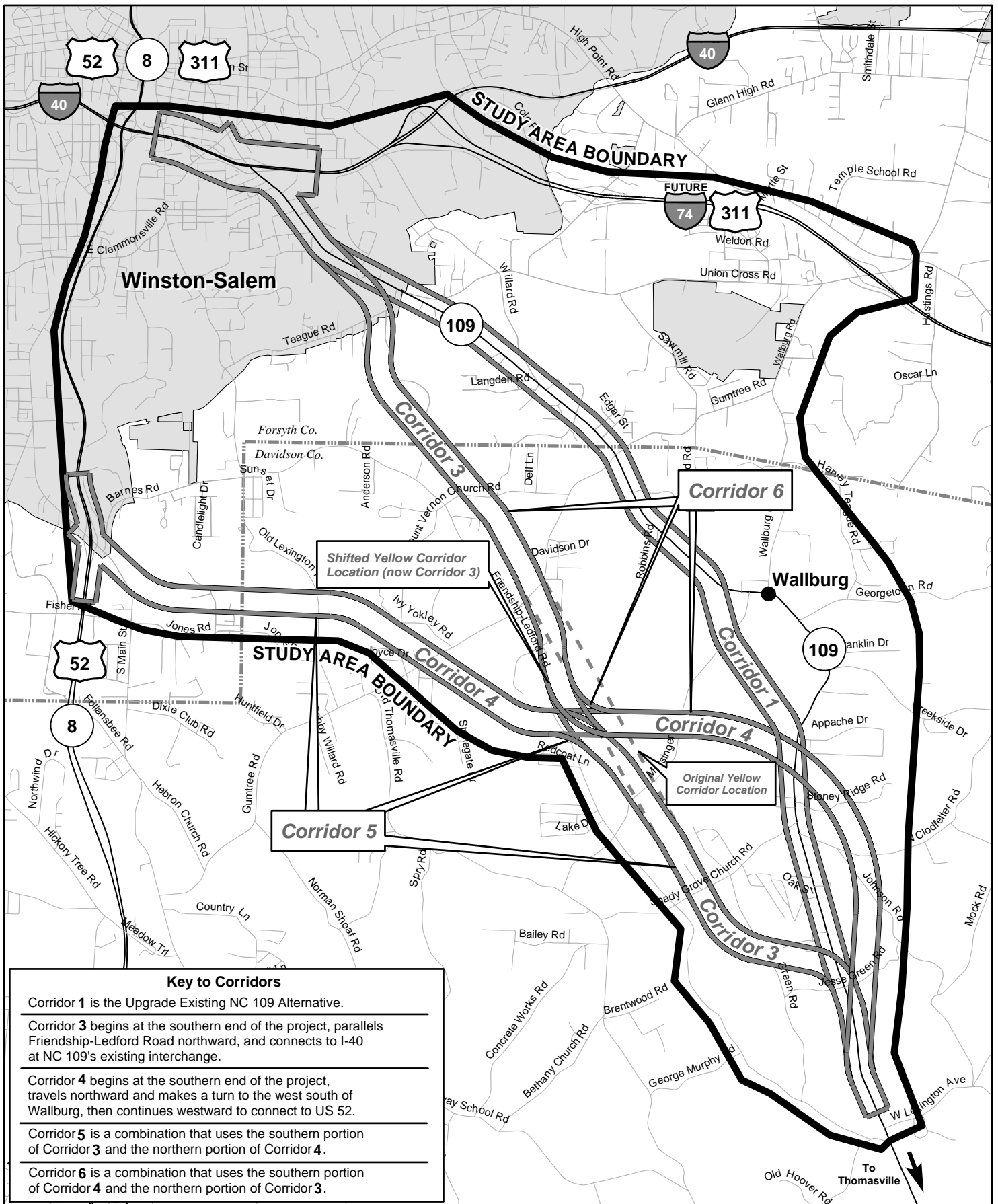
NC 109 Study Process

The NC 109 Improvements Project is considered a corridor study. A **corridor study** is an evaluation process for transportation projects. This study identifies locations for upgrades to existing roadways and/or locations for new roadways that are needed to provide transportation improvements in an area. A corridor is an area: (1) along an existing roadway where upgrades are proposed, or (2) an area of land identified as a potential location for a new road.

The purpose of a corridor study is to develop alternatives that meet the transportation needs in the area and to determine the type of transportation facility that would, to the greatest extent possible, avoid impacting areas that are socially, culturally, or environmentally sensitive. Factors to be considered include engineering, environmental, social, and economic aspects. In this case, five corridors have been developed.

The engineering, environmental, social, and economic issues will be evaluated by a **Section 404/NEPA Merger Process "Project Team,"** which includes representatives from Federal, state, and local agencies. The team works together to develop unanimous agreements at specific milestones in the study process. These milestones are referred to as "Concurrence Points."

- ◆ **Concurrence Point 1: Purpose and Need** — What transportation problem are we trying to solve? The purpose and need for the NC 109 Improvements Project was agreed to by the Project Team on September 15, 2004.
- ◆ **Concurrence Point 2: Selection of Alternatives for Detailed Study** Field studies are conducted to determine the environmental, social, and economic impacts. The corridors are refined or eliminated to minimize negative impacts. *Alternates will be selected for detailed study in summer 2006.*
- ◆ **Concurrence Point 3: Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative Selection** — Based on engineering and environmental studies, environmental and transportation agencies will select one alternative that meets the purpose and need for the project while minimizing impacts to the natural and human environment.
- ◆ **Concurrence Point 4: Avoidance and Minimization** — Means of further avoiding and minimizing impacts to environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic resources will be identified.



Key to Corridors

Corridor 1 is the Upgrade Existing NC 109 Alternative.

Corridor 3 begins at the southern end of the project, parallels Friendship-Ledford Road northward, and connects to I-40 at NC 109's existing interchange.

Corridor 4 begins at the southern end of the project, travels northward and makes a turn to the west south of Wallburg, then continues westward to connect to US 52.

Corridor 5 is a combination that uses the southern portion of Corridor 3 and the northern portion of Corridor 4.

Corridor 6 is a combination that uses the southern portion of Corridor 4 and the northern portion of Corridor 3.



North Carolina Department of Transportation
NC 109 IMPROVEMENTS



**P.O. Box 30923
Raleigh, NC 27622**

**The next newsletter will be
mailed in the Fall of 2006
following the Project Team
meeting to select
alternatives for detailed study.**

**The project website has been
updated!**

Visit it today at:

**[www.ncdot.org/projects/
NC109Improvements](http://www.ncdot.org/projects/NC109Improvements)**

NC 109 Improvement Study Contact Information

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